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THE RESUMPTION BY MARYLAND.

The vote in the Senate of Maryland on the bill which had already passed the House of Delegates for the resumption of payment of interest on her State debt was fourteen yeas to six nays. But for the accidental absence of one of the friends of the bill, the yeas would have been fifteen, being a vote of five-sevenths of the Senate in favor of it; a vote which ought, for the honor of the State of Maryland, to be truly recorded. The *Baltimore American* thus announces the vote:

"MARYLAND AGAIN ELECT!"

"RESUMPTION BILL FINALLY PASSED!—RESTORATION OF THE STATE'S CREDIT!—Last night's bill brought the very glowing intelligence of the passage yesterday, by the Senate, of the long-pending bill providing for the resumption of the payment of interest on the State debt, and for funding the arrears of interest. The vote in the Senate was 14 yeas to 6 nays. This most desirable and excellent measure, having previously passed the House, is now the law of the State, and under its provisions Maryland again resumes her proper position among her sisters of the National Confederacy."

THE SUPREME COURT.

The term of this Court closed on Saturday last. It has been long and laborious; and most faithfully have the Judges discharged their arduous and fatiguing duties.

When Governor WRIGHT, of New York, was called upon to commission *Jonathan D. Stevenson* as colonel of a roving regiment for California, he opened a correspondence with the Secretary of War, objecting to the irregularity of the proceeding, in the progress of which he avowed the following sentiments in relation to a war for conquest:

"If it is designed to make our present war with Mexico one of conquest, and appropriation of any part of the territory professedly and indisputably here, I think the design a mistaken one. I am, as decidedly as any man in the country, for prosecuting this war with all the requisite vigor and energy to bring it to an early and successful termination; and for so prosecuting it, as well within the conceded territory and jurisdiction of Mexico as within the United States, or the territory in dispute between the two countries. But I would cause it to be constantly and distinctly understood that I did not invade the territory of Mexico for the purpose of conquest and appropriation, and that, so far as the question of boundary is involved, I should be at all times ready to make a treaty establishing the same boundary which we claimed at the commencement of the war."

"IRRELEVANT ISSUES.—The call for the meeting at Tammany Hall on Monday evening invites all who are in favor of a vigorous prosecution of the war and opposed to the introduction of 'unfriendly and irrelevant issues.' We think the latter issue might have been omitted without injury to the Democratic party. The words are somewhat vague. What is the 'irrelevant and unfriendly issue' that is to be avoided? Is it the tea and coffee issue? or is it the lieutenant generalship? or the Wilnot proviso? Language so vague is subject to misinterpretation."

"One thing at all events; we hope no man with free blood in his veins will lift a voice in censure of any of the gallant delegates from this State who have taken their stand upon the non-extension of slavery. The Wilnot, or Preston King, or Hamlin Provision, is the rallying point of those who love the country and seek its betterment."

The New York Evening Post, from which the above is taken, is a thorough Looseloop paper. Its editors are, however, prudent as well as consistent. They know that the appeal to the patriotic sympathies of the people in regard to the war is hypocritical—that it is fraud upon the party. The editors of that paper feel that, under the pretence of stirring up the citizens generally to the expression of an opinion that the country must be sustained, a party is bringing into operation the worst measures that could be devised, and the Evening Post boldly cautions its own partisans not to fall into the snare. Never in the world were people more disposed to stand by their own Government than are those of the United States; never had people greater cause for such patriotism; but artful men, knowing of the existence of this feeling, take advantage of their generous impulses to seduce them into a sanction of what is destructive to the great principles of the country, revolting to men of lofty sentiment, and what will, in time, lead to the dismemberment of the nation. The people are called upon to avoid unfriendly and irrelevant issues. How can they avoid them? These issues are forced upon them. They cannot shut their eyes to the fact that it is the intention of the Government to extend slavery, and that is an evil to which, we truly believe, they will not submit. If it is not the intention of the Administration of the country to spread the curse of slavery over the beautiful territory which it is to take from Mexico, why does it not say so? Why do the emissaries and plant tools of the Administration calmly appeal to the people to stand by the war without making issues?

We believe that there is no disposition, in any part of the country, to deny the Administration the means of carrying on a war which exists; and, densely mortifying as it is to every high-minded man to know that the war is one for conquest, still little would be said. But when the Government declares that the attempt to prevent the extension of slavery into these conquered provinces is making an issue with itself, then it cannot be denied that the people of the middle, the western, and the free States have before them an admission upon which they must act. It is not the first time that a Government has made a war, shed blood, and wasted the treasury, in order to effect ulterior and pernicious objects; nor is it the first time that such a Government has appealed to the patriotism of the people to sustain the war, and make no issues upon the ulterior objects.—*U. S. Gazette.*

TELEGRAPHIC WRITING.—The Philadelphia North American says there is a prisoner confined in the penitentiary at Trenton, New Jersey, who has exhibited a decided ability in invention, and not long since, as one point of his mental operations, perfected and applied, in the Legislative chambers, a machine for instantly taking the yeas and nays.

It now appears that he has been engaged in constructing a machine for telegraph printing, which he accomplishes with more facility than can be achieved by the use of Morse's writing apparatus. The editor of the Trenton State Gazette, who has seen the machine, says of it:

"By simply striking at one end of the telegraph a set of keys, each of which answers to a letter or mark of punctuation, a communication will be printed at the other end of the wire. The keys may be touched as rapidly as the operator chooses. It does not require a certain time to make the letters, as in Morse's or House's invention. Touching the key does not make the letter; it only sets in motion an instrument which goes on itself very rapidly, makes the letter, and then stops. All that the operator has to do, is to sit down at his key-board with his communication before him, and touch the keys as fast as his fingers can do it."

The printing of the letters is said to be perfect.

THE STATE OF THE NATION.

The following article on the present posture and the probable future of public affairs appears to us to be well worthy to supersede any thing of our own on the same subject:

FROM THE BALTIMORE (N. C.) REGISTER OF MARCH 2.

To-morrow, the third day of March, closes the Session of the Twenty-ninth Congress of the United States. Doubtless much has been done that it were better for the country had not been done, while many things have been left undone which the interests and prosperity of the Union demanded at the hands of our national legislators. But, whether for weal or woe, weighty and important matters have been transacted, which must tell upon our future destiny—perhaps the cause of Republican liberty throughout the world. Heaven grant that a propitious Providence may have in store great happiness and glory for our beloved country, and from beneath a frowning and unpromising future the bright sun of peace and prosperity may emerge, giving renewed confidence in the perpetuity of our institutions!

Since the commencement of this Congress, in December, 1845, strange and momentous incidents in our history have transpired, as remarkable and important as they have been strange and unlooked-for. Upon its opening, the Executive congratulated the Representatives of the Union upon our being at peace with all the world; before the close of the first session the tocsin of war was sounded, and the life-blood of our citizens was poured out on the ensanguined battle-field. Without the knowledge, without the consent of Congress, our nation has become engaged in a foreign war, and, after a year's pursuit for peace and redress, we find ourselves involved in a labyrinth of perplexity and uncertainty, from which the wisest seem to stand in doubt, to how we shall best extricate ourselves. Diversified, and we may say multifarious, are the plans consulted and projected by our Statesmen and Legislators, but still the crimson tide flows on, and our treasure is exhausting—and for what? Let the future answer!

But it is not our purpose to read a homily on the horrors of war. We are in for it; and it is our business and duty to terminate it as early as we honorably can. We have no fears for the success of our arms; they would be found invincible against a stronger and more worthy foe. The proud Lion of England might well arouse himself and shake the dew-drops from his mane, in encountering so formidable an adversary; but the genius of our institutions is for Peace: our advancement, prosperity, and happiness as a nation require it. God grant us an honorable, a speedy and lasting one!

But another subject than that of war, equally disastrous to our national prosperity, has been agitated and consummated—we mean the impracticable system of *Free Trade*. A just and equitable Tariff had but just begun to develop its beneficial and prosperous results, when, by the mad schemes of partisan ambition, it was nipped in the bud, and the wild vagary of Free Trade was established in its stead. Its friends were told of its total inadequacy to supply the revenue wants of the Government; but heedlessly they rushed on. It was consummated. It had not been in operation two months, before its advocates and framers themselves desired to improve and amend it, by incorporating a little more of that denounced and proscribed ingredient—"Protection." Well, we say let them have it; perhaps a little heaven may leaven the whole lump.

The broken down, worn-out scheme of the Sub-treasury has also been galvanized into a sort of animal magnetism life. But it can do but little ill, while the country suffers, as at present, under the monetary deficiency which she experiences.

We have neither space nor time to enumerate, much less enlarge upon, all the schemes of public policy which have been agitated since the commencement of the Congress which closes, by limitation, on the 3d of March. Our object was simply to take a cursory glance at the past, and to see if it betokens any signs of brightness for the future. It is an old proverb, "experience keeps a dear school"; and there are some who, refusing to take counsel by the lessons afforded in the history of other nations, must needs experience in our own the sad misfortunes of others. But we have no fears but that the People will do right; and that, however politicians and demagogues may blunder, and endanger our rights and interests, the sovereign People, having all power in their own hands, will save the Union from the dangers and difficulties which the imprudence or recklessness of the former may have involved it.

At the opening of the next session of Congress, a different creed of principles, we doubt not, will be in the majority, at least in the popular branches—those representing, directly, the great mass of the people. We will not disguise the fact that we regard this change as highly favorable to the interests and well-being of the whole country. Holding, as the Whig party do, sentiments and views in common upon all the great leading measures of our nation, we may confidently calculate upon a harmonious and concerted plan for the good of all; and while wise councils prevail, and noble and patriotic purposes are pursued, the advancement and prosperity of the Union will never be endangered. Let them enter upon the discharge of their duties, determined to gather wisdom from the illiberal and unpatric course of their predecessors, and which has brought down upon them the ostracising judgments of their constituents. Let them strike for their country—their whole country—leaving party and base party subservience, far behind, when called upon to administer our national affairs, and the plaudit of "good and faithful servants" will go with them, awarded by a benefited and grateful constituency.

"Let all the ends thou aim'st at
"Be thy God's, thy country's, and truth's."

Let this be the prevailing motto in the next Congress of the United States, and we shall soon see her again—what she was, and what she ought to be—the most prosperous, flourishing, and happy nation on the face of the earth.

FROM THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.

The "Union" tells an anecdote of Gen. JACKSON which is perfectly characteristic. "When," says the Union, "Chief Justice Taney administered the oath of office to President Van Buren, Gen. Jackson, standing by, remarked, with his characteristic knowledge of the American people, 'There is MY Chief Justice, rejected by the Senate, swearing in as President MY Minister to England, likewise rejected by that Council.' Here is the assumption and the denunciation. 'MY Chief Justice,' and 'MY Minister,' and the Senate 'CONCLUDE!' And, we dare say, the Union thinks this was all very noble, and appropriate, and republican, and democratic."

UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT.—On the 23d ultimo two brothers, by the name of Uris and William Garreau, who were engaged in reshing a large four-story building in St. Louis, fell from the roof to the pavement and both were killed—the eldest immediately, and the other surviving about an hour.

MR. CLAY'S SPEECH AT NEW ORLEANS.

Mr. CLAY, having been invited by the committee of arrangements to attend the late meeting in the city of New Orleans to consider the case of the suffering in Ireland, took a seat near the Governor of the State, who was present. An enthusiastic, loud, and apparently unanimous call for him was made by the audience, and, slowly rising from his seat, he approached the foot of the platform and addressed the meeting nearly as follows:

Mr. President and Fellow-citizens: I hesitated to accept the invitation which has brought me here. Being a mere sojourner, and not a member of this community, I doubted the propriety of my presence and participation in the proceedings of this meeting, and apprehended that my motive might be misunderstood. But, on consulting my pillow, and considering the humanity of the object of this assembly, I am bound by no latitude of locality, and ought to be co-extensive with the whole human family, it seemed to me that all considerations of fastidious delicacy and etiquette should be waived and merged in a generous and magnanimous effort to contribute to the relief of the sufferings which have excited our feelings. If I should be misconceived or misrepresented, the experience of a long life has taught me that the best response to misconception and misrepresentation is the fearless and faithful discharge of duty in all the conditions of life in which we may be placed; and the best answer to tradition and calumny is conscientious rectitude and the approbation of one's own heart.

Mr. President, if we were to hear that large number of the inhabitants of Asia, or Africa, or Australia, or the remotest part of the globe, were daily dying with hunger and famine—no matter what their color, what their religion, or what their civilization—we should deeply lament their condition, and be irresistibly prompted, if possible, to mitigate their sufferings. But it is not the distresses of any such distant regions that have summoned us together on this occasion. The appalling and heart-rending distresses of Ireland and Irishmen form the object of our present consultation; that Ireland which has been, in all the vicissitudes of our national existence, our friend, and has ever extended to us her warmest sympathy—those Irishmen who, in every way in which we have been engaged, on every battle-field, from Quebec to Monterey, have stood by us, shoulder to shoulder, and shared in all the perils and fortunes of the conflict. The imploring appeal comes to us from the Irish nation, which is so identified with our own as to be almost part and parcel of ours, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh. Nor is it any ordinary case of human misery, or a few isolated cases of death by starvation, that we are called upon to consider. Famine is stalking through the whole of Ireland; whole towns, counties—countless human beings, of every age and of both sexes—at this very moment are starving, or in danger of starving to death for bread! Of all the forms of dissolution of human life, the pang and agony of that which proceeds from famine are the most dreadful. If one dies fighting gloriously for his country, he is cheered in his expiring moments by the patriotic nature of his sacrifice. He knows that his surviving relations and friends, while lamenting his loss, will be gratified and honored by his devotion to his country. Poets, painters, sculptors, historians, will record his deeds of valor and perpetuate his renown. If he dies by the sudden explosion of the boilers of a steamboat, or by a storm at sea, death is quiet and easy, and soon performs his mission. A few piercing shrieks are uttered, he sinks beneath the waves, and is never seen again. But a death by starvation comes slow, lingering, and excruciating. From day to day the wretched victim feels his flesh dwindling, his speech sinking, his friends fading around him, and he finally expires in horrible agony. Behold the wretched Irish mother, with haggard looks, and staring eyes, and a never-failing and abundant supply of Indian corn—dressed piecemeal in her face begging for food! And see the distracted husband and father, with pallid cheeks, standing by, horror and despair depicted in his countenance—tortured by the reflection that he can afford no succor or relief to the dearest objects of his heart, about to be snatched forever from him by the most cruel of all deaths! This is no fancy picture; but, if we are to credit the terrible accounts which reach us from that theatre of misery and wretchedness, is one of daily occurrence. Indeed, no imagination can conceive—no tongue express—no pencil paint, the horrors of the scenes which are there daily exhibited.

Ireland, in respect to food, is differently situated from all the countries of the world. Asia has her abundant supply of rice; Africa her dates, yams, and rice; Europe her bread of wheat, rye, and oats; America, a double resource in the small grains, and never failing and abundant supply of Indian corn—that great supporter of animal life, for which we are not half grateful enough to a bountiful and merciful Providence. But the staple food of large parts of poor Ireland is the potato, and when it fails pinching want and famine follow. It is among the inscrutable dispensations of Providence that the crop has been blighted, the potato has been destroyed, and the people, who are so dependent upon it for their food, are thus brought to the verge of starvation. Shall it be vain? Shall be starving Ireland—the young and the old—lying women and children, stretch out their hands to us for bread, and find no relief? Will not this great city, the world's storehouse of an exhaustless supply of all kinds of food, borne to its overflowing warehouse by the Father of Waters, act on this occasion in a manner worthy of his high destiny, and obey the noble impulses of the generous hearts of his blessed inhabitants?

We are commanded, by the common Saviour of Ireland and of us, to love one another as ourselves, and on this, together with one higher obligation, hang all the law and prophets of our holy religion. We know that, of all the forms of humanity and benevolence, none is more acceptable in the sight of God than the practice of charity. Let us demonstrate our love, our duty, and our gratitude to Him, by a liberal contribution to the relief of the suffering Irish children.

Fellow-citizens: No ordinary purpose has brought us together. This is no political gathering. If it had been, you would not have seen me here. I have not come here to make a speech. When the heart is full and agitated by its own feelings emotions, the paralyzed tongue finds in common language no fervid eloquence, no glowing words that Ireland needs, but substantial food. Let us rise to the magnitude of the duty which is before us, and, by a generous supply from the magnitude of our means, evince the genuineness and cordiality of our sympathy and commiseration.

At Mr. Clay's speech, one loud and unanimous shout of approval was raised, in which officers and audience participated.

FROM OREGON AND CALIFORNIA.

The Tribune has a letter from the city of Panama as late as the 22d of January which furnishes some intelligence of interest. The British surveying vessels *Hereward* and *Pandora* arrived in the bay of Panama about the middle of January, after spending some months surveying the straits of Fuca and Vancouver's island, of the value of which the officers give very opposite accounts.

On the 26th of September they arrived in the bay of San Francisco, where they found "the stars and stripes" flying from the mast, from the mast heads of some five or six whalers, which had run in there through fear of the Mexican privateers, and from the United States sloop of war *Porpoise*.

At Yerba Buena were many Mormons living in tents, while they were building their houses. An advance guard of these people, about 5,000 in number, had already arrived in the country. There was much quarrelling among them. On the 26th of the same month they have to be by the Monterey, and communicated with Com. STOCKTON, who was then under sail in the bay of the same name. The Commodore was in good health, and represented the country in a pretty quiet state.

On the 4th of October last they lay to off the bay of San Diego, and communicated with a whaler, which had, as was reported, been sent by the Commodore for the protection of the coast. They learned that the Californians had risen on the American garrison at Pecos de los Angeles, killed the commander, Capt. Gillespie, and most of his command, and raised again the Mexican flag. They afterward heard a vague report that Gillespie had escaped. The Americans and other foreigners who had escaped the massacre had taken refuge on board the whaler. The natives were killed—their bodies were found on the beach. The whaler, on the 20th of October these vessels arrived at Mazatlan, where they learned that the American squadron had literally levelled the town of Guaymas, in Sonora, to the earth. It was not known that the land forces under Gen. Kearny had arrived in that country.

LATEST FROM THE SOUTH.

NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 11, 1847.

MESSRS. GILES & SEATON: DEAR SIRS: Gen. BUTLER arrived here yesterday. Among the leading items of news is the reported evacuation of Vera Cruz by order of Santa Anna. As regards the city, I should think this very probable, as the garrison could not defend it against Gen. Scott; and the troops of which that garrison is composed will be of more service with Santa Anna, particularly if he contemplates an attack on General Scott, as it is probable he does.

Gentlemen who have conversed with Gen. BUTLER say that he freely expresses his opinion as to the proper, indeed only mode of conducting the war, and which coincides with the views of Mr. CALHOUN—to take and fortify by posts a line of territory; either capture or blockade their ports, without any attempt to penetrate into the interior. The line to be taken, he thinks, should be the one (whatever it may be) which the Government intends to insist on as the permanent boundary between the two countries, and he says 15,000 men would be sufficient to hold and protect it from the Gulf to the Pacific.

Gen. BUTLER justly says that, admitting we advanced into the country with every success that could be expected, and even captured the city of Mexico, it would not have any material effect on the enemy, nor place us any nearer to peace than we now are, and we should never command any more territory than what we actually covered with our bayonets, and would be constantly surrounded by a hostile population, and the Mexicans would have nothing to do but to avoid fighting, and let our army waste away, as it rapidly would do, by fatigue, sickness, and constant guerrilla war.

He seems to think it probable that Santa Anna has moved with his whole force to Vera Cruz, and with a view of giving Gen. Scott a grand fight; though he says, it would be impolitic for him to do so under any circumstances, but that his plan should be to let our army advance into the interior without tiring a general battle, but merely to harass, tie up, and cut off stragglers or detachments. Any serious repulse to an advancing army would be fatal to them under the circumstances.

The Administration have got themselves and the country into a most awkward predicament as to this war, so blindly and rashly undertaken; for, as recently observed in the Senate, we have the wolf by the ears, and it is equally dangerous to hold on to it or to let him go. There is no doubt of the fact that, sooner or later, we will have to come to the plan of holding on to what we have, and the prevailing opinion with the army is, that we should give up the idea of penetrating into the country. The views and intentions, however, of the Administration are different, and they are actually at this moment calculating on an advance of General TAYLOR from Saltillo, and their measures will finally result in some serious misfortune, that will rouse the indignation of our whole country.

All the officers from Mexico speak in high terms of the Mexican cavalry, and admit they are fully equal to our mounted volunteers, man for man, and greatly outnumber our forces of that description.

I do not believe we shall have any decisive intelligence from Vera Cruz till towards the close of this month; as the residue of Gen. Worth's troops will not leave the Brazos before the 6th or 8th instant, and the whole force cannot be collected at Lobos and Tampico before the 15th, and if they were to sail on that day, it would be at least the 20th before they would probably reach Vera Cruz. Those who pretend to know best, say that the castle can only be taken by bombardment; and that, if the garrison is properly supplied, it will be very difficult to take it at all, and at any rate will require a long time to do so.

It is difficult, from the conflicting opinions, to form any correct idea on the subject, but I shall not be surprised if it should be an easy conquest.

LATER FROM NEW MEXICO.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE ST. LOUIS REPUBLICAN.

INDEPENDENCE, (Mo.) FEB. 15, 1847.

As news of some importance from Santa Fe has just reached us, I hasten to give you the information. Nine men, with two wagons, direct from Santa Fe, reached here this evening, who bring intelligence of a battle having been fought between Col. DONIPHAN's regiment and the Mexicans, about fifty miles above El Paso del Norte.

Col. DONIPHAN was on his march down the country, intending to expect to join Wool at Chihuahua. When within about fifty miles of Paso del Norte, they observed a body of Mexicans approaching them with a black flag. DONIPHAN halted, and sent out an interpreter to know what was meant by it. The answer was a demand for an unconditional surrender. Col. DONIPHAN asked fifteen minutes to think of the matter, and, in less than the time asked, formed his men in battle array, and at the time ordered his men, as soon as they formed, to squat close to the ground, which they did. The Mexicans fired. DONIPHAN did not return the fire, hoping to avoid a battle. The Mexicans fired again, which wounded several Americans. DONIPHAN, thinking it a little more serious than at first, ordered his men to fire, which they did with considerable effect. The Mexicans stood but the one fire from our unerring marksmen. They broke ranks and scattered in confusion, leaving thirty killed on the field. DONIPHAN had about six hundred men with him at the time, and they report that there were two hundred Mexicans. None of the Americans were killed; seven were wounded.

DONIPHAN's destination is Chihuahua, expecting to join Wool, but how sadly will he be disappointed, and how badly will he be whipped if he goes down there. Perhaps he may have prudence enough to seize upon El Paso, and there remain to be reinforced.

There had been an insurrection planned at Santa Fe, headed by the priests, but it was discovered in time to prevent it. At the time the company left, the Americans had twenty of the ringleaders arrested, nearly all of them priests, and it was thought that they would be executed.

There has been a great deal of sickness in the American army, which was very fatal. Fever of a typhoid character was sweeping them off daily. Out of Price's whole regiment there were not three hundred men able to perform duty. However, a portion of his regiment was in the mountains, but our informant had references to those in Santa Fe. DONIPHAN's regiment had been much more healthy.

The winter had been unusually severe in Santa Fe—the coldest within the recollection of the oldest inhabitant. The company suffered very severely coming in—they left the Mora on the 14th of January—Santa Fe a short time previous.

DEPARTURE OF VOLUNTEERS.

The last departure of the Virginia Regiment of Volunteers left Hampton Roads for Mexico in the transport *Sophia Walker*, on Monday last. This vessel is bound to Point Isabel, and has on board the companies of Captains Preston, Robertson, and Archer.

On the Thursday previous the brig *Samuel N. Goff* left Wilmington for Braso Santiago, with three companies of the North Carolina Regiment, and Black, and on Tuesday the schooner *Harris* departed from the same place with two more companies of the same regiment, commanded by Capt. Price and Kilpatrick—leaving behind only two companies, to follow their companions in two or three days.

FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

The New Orleans papers put us in possession of dates from Tampico to the 20th ultimo, from which we learn that Gen. SCOTT arrived at that place on the 19th, and was received with due honors. The city was all excitement, and preparations were making to embark the troops as speedily as possible.

The most important news which is furnished by this arrival is the reported evacuation of Vera Cruz by order of SANTA ANNA. This news is contained in the following letter, said to be from a most respectable source:

"TAMPICO, FEBRUARY 18, 1847."

"This afternoon the mail-carrier from Vera Cruz arrived, bringing letters for foreign merchants in this city which stated that the commander of the Mexican forces at Vera Cruz had received positive orders from Santa Anna to withdraw all the forces from that city and to march them into the interior; and it is supposed by all now that Vera Cruz will be occupied by our troops without a blow being struck."

One of the Editors of the *Picayune*, under date of the 18th February, writes from Tampico as follows:

"I have seen an extract from a letter written at San Luis Potosi on the 9th instant by a Mexican officer to his friend in this place. This extract states that Santa Anna was to march upon Saltillo preparatory to attacking Monterey; that Ureca, with some 5,000 troops at Victoria, was to attack Matamoros, and that both expeditions must prove successful. The writer indulges in the most sanguine expressions. He says 'the Yankees will see a strong blow struck against them, and be made to pay dearly for what they have done.' It is pretty certain that Santa Anna is at Saltillo, and it is even reported that he has engaged Gen. Taylor. This, however, we do not believe in Tampico. I must confess that the extract of the letter to which I here allude gives me some concern. We shall give the Yankees some hot work in the North while they are marching on Vera Cruz,' is the confident language of the writer of this extract, who is none other than the private secretary of Santa Anna. Of this I am altogether well assured."

In regard to SANTA ANNA's late movements, the *Bulletin* remarks:

"It is believed that his recent display towards Saltillo was merely intended to mask his real movement towards Vera Cruz, and that he has actually marched towards that point. One account had been received that he did contemplate an attack at one time on Saltillo, but was deterred from the attempt by the difficulty of procuring water on the route."

"It has been ascertained that SANTA ANNA had at San Luis 20,000 men, of which 7,000 were cavalry. From the present advices it is thought he may be able to reach Vera Cruz as soon as Gen. Scott, and, if he arrives before the latter, will be able to prevent the disembarkation of the troops, or attack them if he finds only a portion landed. The whole of Gen. Scott's force will amount to about 13,000 men, and an impression exists that SANTA ANNA will risk a fight at any rate, even if he has to encounter the whole body."

"General TAYLOR has about 6,000 men at Saltillo and 2,000 at Monterey, and we learn has collected provisions there, which, with what he had received from Camargo, was sufficient for eight or ten months' supply of the force he had with him. The posts on the Rio Grande are very weakly defended, and could be carried without difficulty, if the enemy only had the enterprise to undertake it. The Mexicans are constantly and most correctly informed of all our movements, strength of our different garrisons, supplies, &c."

"If the Castle of Vera Cruz is not speedily captured, we learn it is the intention of General Scott to remove his troops from the range of the *comito*, and to blockade the city and castle by sea and land."

A rumor prevailed that Gen. Taylor intended to advance from Saltillo, in case it was ascertained Santa Anna had withdrawn his force from San Luis."

Immediately on the arrival of Gen. SCOTT at Tampico, he caused the following general order to be promulgated:

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, TAMPICO, FEBRUARY 18, 1847.

The General-in-Chief announces to the army the staff officers who are attached to general headquarters in the field. *Department of Orders*—First Lieut. H. L. Scott, 5th Infantry, aid-de-camp and acting assistant adjutant general; 1st Lieut. T. Williams, 4th Artillery, aid-de-camp; 1st Lieut. E. P. Scammon, Topographical Engineers, acting aid-de-camp; and 2d Lieut. G. W. Way, 6th Infantry, military secretary.

General Staff Officers—Lieut. Col. E. A. Hitchcock, 3d Infantry, acting inspector general; Capt. James Monroe, 6th Infantry, acting assistant inspector general; Col. J. G. Totten, chief of Corps of Engineers; Major W. Turnbull, acting chief of Topographical Engineers; Capt. B. Huger, acting chief of Ordnance; Major S. McNeil, acting chief of the Quartermaster's Department; Capt. J. B. Croston, acting chief of the Subsistence Department; Major E. Kirby, acting chief of the Pay Department; and Surgeon Gen. T. Lawson, chief of the Medical Department.

The senior officer of Artillery, Col. J. Bankhead, 2d Artillery, will enter upon the duties of chief of Artillery as soon as there shall be occasion for planting heavy batteries. All general staff officers will be mainly employed in their respective departments of duty, and any orders that any chief of department may give in relation to his peculiar duties in the name and by the authority of the general-in-chief of the army, will be promptly obeyed.

By command of Major General SCOTT:

H. L. SCOTT, A. A. G.

And on the next day another general order was issued for the purpose of restraining crime and licentiousness in and about the camps and posts of the invading army; by which all such camps, &c. are declared to be under martial law, and assassination, murder, malicious stabbing, maiming, theft, the wanton destruction of churches or other property, &c. are declared to be offences that will be punished by military commissions, duly appointed and organized, provided that no such sentence shall be carried into execution which shall be in conformity with punishments inflicted for like crimes when committed within the territories of the United States.

FROM THE RIO GRANDE.

The propeller *Washington*, arrived at New Orleans from Braso Santiago, brought as passenger Major Gen. BUTLER, who is still suffering so much from the effects of the wound he received at Monterey as to be disabled for active service.

By the same arrival we learn that Gen. TAYLOR, with May's squadron, Bragg's and Thomas's batteries, and the Mississippi regiment, arrived at Saltillo on the 2d of February. He has taken his position at Agua Nueva.

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE PICAYUNE.

BRASO SANTIAGO, FEBRUARY 22, 1847.